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Agenda item 70

Promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Third Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tebatso Future **Baleseng** (Botswana)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled:

"Promotion and protection of human rights:

"(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

"(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

"(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

"(e) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

"(f) Celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights";

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. An account of the Third Committee's consideration of the item is given in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in seven parts, under the symbols A/62/439 and Add.1-6.

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Item 70
Promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[1]

Letter dated 21 September 2007 from the representative of Ukraine to the Secretary-General (A/62/369)

Letter dated 2 October 2007 from the representative of Cuba to the Secretary-General (A/62/464)

Letter dated 18 October 2007 from the representative of Pakistan to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 2 October 2007 (A/62/507-S/2007/636)

Letter dated 18 October 2007 from the representative of the Russian Federation to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.3/62/6)

Item 70 (a)
Implementation of human rights instruments

Report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its fifth and sixth sessions[2]

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/62/180)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/62/189)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/62/273)

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (A/62/299)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/62/221)

Note by the Secretary-General submitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their nineteenth meeting (A/62/224)

Letter dated 22 October 2007 from the representative of Uzbekistan to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/62/5)

Letter dated 16 November 2007 from the representative of Uzbekistan to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/62/8)

Item 70 (b)
Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/62/183)

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 36* (A/62/36).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 48* (A/62/48).

Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/62/222)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity (A/62/254)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/62/255)

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/62/287)

Report of the Secretary-General on combating defamation of religions (A/62/288)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization (A/62/293)

Report of the Secretary-General on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/62/298)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (A/62/317)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Khmer Rouge trials (A/62/304)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (A/62/207)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/62/212)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (A/62/214)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/62/218)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders (A/62/225)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons (A/62/227)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/62/265)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (A/62/280)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food (A/62/289)

Note verbale dated 17 October 2007 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/62/3)

Letter dated 16 November 2007 from the representative of Uzbekistan to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/62/8)

Item 70 (e)
Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/62/318)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/62/498)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi (A/62/213)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/62/223)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/62/263)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/62/264)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (A/62/275)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/62/313)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (A/62/354)

Letter dated 24 October 2007 from the representative of Belarus to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/62/4)

Letter dated 5 November 2007 from the representative of Myanmar to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/62/7)

Item 70 (d)
Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

No documents submitted.

Item 70 (e)
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto (A/62/230)

Item 70 (f)
Celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

No documents submitted.

II. Consideration of a draft decision proposed by the Chairman

4. At its 54th meeting, on 28 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of a number of documents considered in connection with the question of human rights (see para. 5).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

5. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly takes note of the following reports under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights":

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.[1]

Under sub-item (a):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;[2]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;[3]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;[4]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants;[5]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General submitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their nineteenth meeting.[6]

Under sub-item (b):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development;[7]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;[8]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the Khmer Rouge trials;[9]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers;[10]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 36* (A/62/36).
[2] A/62/180.
[3] A/62/189.
[4] A/62/273.
[5] A/62/299.
[6] A/62/224.
[7] A/62/183.
[8] A/62/287.
[9] A/62/304.
[10] A/62/207.

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights;[11]

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;[12]

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants;[13]

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.[14]

Under sub-item (c):

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi;[15]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;[16]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;[17]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan.[18]

Under sub-item (e):

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto.[19]

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[11] A/62/212.
[12] A/62/214.
[13] A/62/218.
[14] A/62/265.
[15] A/62/213.
[16] A/62/275.
[17] A/62/313.
[18] A/62/354.
[19] A/62/230.